



RELEASE: IMMEDIATE

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DRPT to Present Applications Received for Rail Enhancement Fund
First round of applications to be reviewed at the next Rail Advisory Board meeting

RICHMOND, Va., October 25, 2005— The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) will present applications received for the new Rail Enhancement Fund at the November 3, 2005 meeting of the Rail Advisory Board (RAB).

Applications were accepted from September 20, 2005 through October 21, 2005 for freight and passenger rail improvements in Virginia.

The public will be invited to comment on these applications online at www.drpt.virginia.gov starting on October 28, 2005. A summary of each application will be provided. Any proprietary applicant information will be excluded.

There are four ways to provide comments:

1. Send comments online at <http://www.drpt.virginia.gov/projects/current/rail-fund.aspx>
2. Sign up in advance to provide comments at the November 3, 2005 RAB meeting at the web address above
3. Attend the November 3, 2005 RAB meeting and sign up on-site before the meeting begins
4. Mail comments to: Public Information Officer, DRPT, 1313 E. Main St, Suite 300, Richmond, VA 23219

All comments must be received by November 16, 2005.

The Rail Advisory Board meeting is scheduled as follows:

November 3, 2005
Virginia Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries
4010 W. Broad St.
Richmond, VA
10:00 am

There will be no action taken to recommend specific projects for funding at this meeting. DRPT will present the final list of projects to the RAB for comment and recommendations on November 30, 2005 at the Virginia Science Museum, the location selected for all RAB meetings in 2006. More information about this meeting will be available soon. DRPT will submit these final projects to the Commonwealth Transportation Board for approval during the Board's December 2005 meeting.

(more)

Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation
1313 E. Main Street, Suite 300
Richmond, VA 23219
www.drpt.virginia.gov

About the Rail Enhancement Fund

The Rail Enhancement Fund was advanced by Governor Warner with bipartisan support in the 2005 General Assembly session. Enacted on July 1, 2005, it provides approximately \$23 million in annual, dedicated funding for passenger or freight rail improvements in Virginia.

Recently, the Commonwealth Transportation Board approved the Rail Enhancement Fund Policy Goals and Implementation Guidelines at its October 2005 meeting.

More information about the Rail Enhancement Fund and the Rail Advisory Board is available online at <http://www.drpt.virginia.gov/projects/current/rail-fund.aspx>.

About DRPT

The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) facilitates the movement of people and goods throughout Virginia. Through rail, public transportation and commuter services, DRPT focuses on congestion relief, economic development and mobility for all citizens. DRPT's mission is to plan, establish, maintain, improve and promote public transportation services, passenger and freight rail transportation systems, and transportation demand management strategies that provide efficient mobility and transportation choices for people and businesses in the Commonwealth. Visit us at www.drpt.virginia.gov.

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